



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016

No. 21

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father of love, who lives and reigns in majesty, we honor Your Name.

Today, use our lawmakers to advance Your kingdom of good will on Earth. Deliver them from ungodly pride and ungenerous judgments, as You inspire them to seek Your wisdom and to follow Your precepts. Give them the wisdom to labor to mend broken hearts, to repair shattered dreams, and to leave the world better than they found it. Lord, teach them to cherish the things that endure, remembering always their accountability to You.

Lord, bless also the many members of their staffs who work faithfully behind the scenes to keep America strong.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The majority leader is recognized.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, when Americans hear "USO," they often think of Bob Hope. There is no question that he helped to lift the spirits of countless men and women in uni-

form, but the USO impacts military personnel in a number of other important ways, too, which is something it has been doing literally for decades—in fact, 75 years to the day. I think every colleague will join me in commemorating this impressive 75-year history.

Our men and women in uniform sacrifice a great deal to defend us, and so do their families. One of the things the USO excels at is helping them to stay connected—connected to hometowns, connected to loved ones, connected to the simpler joys in life. From providing deployed soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with an opportunity to phone home, to providing world-class entertainment, to helping servicemembers find meaningful employment once their service is complete, the USO's mission is broad in scope and has made a lasting and positive impact on many since it was first conceived just before World War II. Much of that credit is due to Americans' willingness to volunteer.

Our military personnel—especially our forward deployed and combat arms units—willingly trade the comforts of home for harsh living conditions. They often forgo life's precious moments, such as celebrating a child's birthday or a first day at school, and they are willing to put everything on the line for us. The USO provides one more platform to say "thank you" for that service, to show gratitude for that sacrifice, to let every man and woman in uniform know what they mean to us.

Congratulations to the USO for 75 years of service to our troops and their families. We hope you will continue your important work for many years to come.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the Murkowski amendment No. 2953 occur at 11:30 a.m. today

and that the cloture vote with respect to S. 2012 follow that vote in the usual form and that the additional time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USO AND COMMENDING WAYNE NEWTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to join my Republican colleague, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, and underscore everything he said about the USO. As just a point of personal privilege, one of the successors of Bob Hope is Wayne Newton. President Bush selected him to lead the USO, which he did for many years.

There has never been a more successful nightclub entertainer than Wayne Newton. He is known all over the world for his voice and his performances. He traveled the world during the time he was that person chosen by the President to represent the USO. He is one of the most patriotic persons I have ever known, and I admire him very much. I want to ensure that the record reflects his friendship to me and all the veterans in America.

Certainly, I appreciate very much joining in this celebration of the USO.

FLINT, MICHIGAN, WATER CRISIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 100,000 people in Flint, MI, have been poisoned, but sadly the Republicans are doing nothing. Nine thousand children, all under the age of 6, have been poisoned. Their brains have been attacked. Still, Republicans have refused to do anything to help.

For the last 2 weeks, the Senators from Michigan have worked on an

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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